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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 62 NUMBER 22

RICE (Page 606)

U.S. Foreign Trade in Agr'l. Products (Page 610)

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

MAY 28, 1951

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Private sources now estimate the 1950-51 cotton crop in Paraguay at 47,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), somewhat higher than the 37,000-bale crop forecast which was made several weeks ago following unusually heavy rainfall in February and March 1951. The revised estimate takes into consideration improvement in the outlook for picking now in progress as result of a prolonged dry spell. It still represents about a 25-percent decrease from the 63,000 bales estimated earlier in the season. Production in 1949-50 totaled 66,000 bales.

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Cotton consumption in Canada was reported at 44,518 bales (500 pounds gross weight) during April 1951. This was slightly lower than consumption in March reported at 45,473 bales, but considerably higher than the 35,970-bale consumption in April 1950. Imports of cotton from the United States in March 1951 amounted to almost 54,000 bales, with 96 bales arriving from India. For the first 8 months of the 1950-51 season, imports totaled 365,000 bales compared with consumption during the same period, of 321,000 bales. Stocks on hand at the end of March 1951 apparently were around 88,000 bales and equal to about 2 months' mill requirements atthe current rate of operations.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD RICE CROP SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN LAST YEAR

World rice production in 1950-51 (August-July) is estimated at 342,000 million pounds of rough rice compared with 339,000 million pounds a year ago, in the third estimate of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. World acreage was the largest on record, but a decline in the average yields per harvested acre in some countries reduced the crop below early season expectations.

The estimated production of Asia exceeded slightly that of the preceding year, but was not so large as the postwar record attained in 1948-49. Production in Europe increased again, and Oceania's harvest also was larger compared with a year earlier. Smaller crops than in 1949-50 were harvested in North and South America.

Asia's harvest, representing 92 percent of the total, is estimated at 316,000 million pounds of rough rice compared with 313,000 million pounds in 1949-50. Production increases occurred in Burma, China, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan. Smaller crops were harvested in India, Korea, Malaya, and the Philippines.

The acreage planted to rice in India, including the reporting and non-reporting areas, is believed to have been slightly larger than last year's record. Such factors as the Assam earthquake, drought, and floods, however, caused a marked decline in the average yield per acre in that country. Pakistan also increased rice acreage, and production is believed to be around 4 percent larger than last year. The acreages of Japan and Taiwan increased slightly and favorable weather again permitted a corresponding gain in production. The combined harvest of Taiwan's two crops in 1950-51 is expected to set another record.

The total production of rice in the 3 exporting countries, Thailand, Burma, and Indochina, is believed to exceed that of the good harvest a year earlier. Thailand's acreage was large and weather conditions were favorable for another bumper crop. Although statistics regarding Burma's crop so far are not available, indications are that the acreage increased and weather conditions permitted the production of at least average yields per acre. Reports indicate that the total acreage of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos of Indochina decreased, but the yields per acre were better than in 1949-50. Production estimates for this region range between 11,000 and 13,000 million pounds of rough rice compared with 12,150 million pounds in the preceding year.

Indonesia's acreage increased and the crops now being harvested are in good condition. Although unfavorable weather in Malaya prevented the current harvest from reaching the high yields per acre of a year earlier, a near-record crop was produced. The Philippine and Ceylon harvests were not so large as in 1949-50 due to unfavorable weather.

RICE (rough): Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, averages 1935-36 to 1944-45, annual 1948-49 to 1950-51 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average					Average					Average				
	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1948-49	1949-50 2/	1950-51 2/	1935-36 to 1939-49	1940-41 to 1944-45	1948-49	1949-50 2/	1950-51 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1948-49	1949-50 2/	1950-51 2/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds
NORTH AMERICA															
Costa Rica	28	27	30	35	35	1,332	1,448	1,357	1,380	1,406	37.3	39.1	40.7	48.3	49.2
El Salvador	26	45	39	31	37	1,392	1,404	1,800	1,635	-	36.2	63.2	70.2	50.7	-
Mexico	96	155	202	267	292	1,904	1,547	1,778	1,525	1,721	182.8	239.8	359.1	407.1	502.6
Panama	50 3/	79	134	141	143	1,440	1,316	1,240	1,234	1,327	72.0 3/	104.0	166.1	174.0	189.7
United States	1,004	1,338	1,781	1,840	1,608	2,234	2,046	2,149	2,215	2,361	2,243.3	2,738.2	3,827.5	4,074.7	3,797.1
Cuba	45	69	123	120	130	958	1,035	1,098	1,117	1,100	43.1	71.4	135.0	134.0	143.0
Dominican Republic	80 3/	99	115	108	116	1,065	1,192	1,076	1,220	1,156	85.2 3/	118.0	123.7	131.8	134.1
Trinidad	10	13	20	25	-	1,350	1,562	2,035	2,424	-	13.5	20.3	40.7	60.6	-
Total	1,422	1,960	2,620	2,742	2,562	-	-	-	-	-	2,802.9	3,545.2	4,951.6	5,288.3	5,131.8
EUROPE															
Bulgaria	19	28	-	-	-	2,463	2,361	-	-	-	46.8	66.1	-	-	-
France	1	1	11	20	28	1,400	1,600	2,000	2,480	3,621	1.4	1.6	22.0	49.6	101.4
Greece	5	3	9	19	24	1,840	2,100	2,200	2,463	2,938	9.2	6.3	19.8	46.8	70.5
Italy	362	381	352	326	357	4,677	4,480	4,384	4,565	4,570	1,692.9	1,707.0	1,543.2	1,488.1	1,631.4
Portugal	47	59	69	69	122	3,253	2,895	2,926	2,477	2,443	152.9	170.8	201.9	170.9	298.1
Spain	110	119	137	142	147	4,336	4,387	3,782	4,280	4,499	477.0	522.0	518.1	607.8	661.4
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	553	612	651	658	764	-	-	-	-	-	2,392.6	2,507.8	2,474.8	2,538.9	2,918.8
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	3/ 384	-	-	-	-	3/ 1,901	-	-	-	-	3/ 730.1	697.5	-	-	-
ASIA															
Iran	534	580	544	544	550	1,566	1,638	1,418	1,499	1,784	836.0	950.1	771.5	815.7	981.0
Iraq	392	431	728	-	525	1,283	1,130	1,060	-	1,050	503.0	487.2	771.6	485.0	551.2
Turkey	78	66	64	66	60	2,642	2,665	3,103	2,903	2,833	206.1	175.9	198.6	191.6	170.0
Burma	12,671	10,650	9,921	9,300	10,000	1,238	1,162	1,079	1,226	1,200	15,683.3	12,375.0	10,702.0	11,400.0	12,000.0
China	4/ 48,853	45,000	45,617	45,631	46,000	4/ 2,259	2,200	2,330	2,150	-	4/ 110,372.0	99,000.0	106,300.0	98,100.0	-
Formosa	1,606	1,518	1,795	1,889	1,898	2,394	2,061	1,835	2,025	2,153	3,845.3	3,128.3	3,293.1	3,825.5	4,087.0
Manchuria	782	975	-	-	850	1,829	1,585	-	-	1,800	1,430.4	1,545.0	1,000.0	800.0	1,530.0
Indochina 5/	14,306	13,000	13,500	12,000	11,250	1,006	987	950	1,012	-	14,396.0	12,825.0	12,825.0	12,150.0	-
India 6/	62,590	64,780	72,485	73,889	74,000	1,194	1,137	1,048	1,037	946	74,740.0	73,650.0	75,994.0	76,589.0	70,000.0

ASIA (Continued)															
Japan	7,862	7,653	7,850	7,880	7,940	3,408	3,267	3,368	3,262	3,330	26,793.1	25,003.9	26,438.0	25,701.6	26,443.0
Korea	3,838	3,601	7/ 2,748	7/ 2,580	-	2,256	2,270	2,826	2,649	-	8,658.3	8,176.0	7/ 7,764.9	7/ 6,834.5	7/ 6,467.6
Malayan Federation	745	790	907	931	908	1,634	1,424	1,204	1,662	1,514	1,217.1	1,125.0	1,092.2	1,546.9	1,375.0
Java and Madura	9,794	9,310	9,110	10,200	-	1,442	1,385	1,455	1,373	-	14,126.0	12,892.6	13,260.0	14,000.0	-
Pakistan	8/ 18,706	20,605	21,545	21,781	22,300	8/ 1,301	1,227	1,316	1,257	1,278	8/ 24,339.8	25,274.3	28,346.7	27,381.5	28,500.0
Philippine Republic	4,852	5,265	5,347	5,471	5,700	973	940	1,027	1,050	981	4,719.5	4,950.0	5,492.2	5,745.2	5,589.1
Thailand 9/	7,088	6,750	8,200	9,100	9,100	1,353	1,333	1,476	1,484	1,484	9,588.5	9,000.0	12,100.0	13,500.0	13,500.0
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	201,204	198,857	210,069	212,563	213,553	-	-	-	-	-	319,825.1	300,624.4	321,098.2	313,223.8	316,121.7
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	52	88	105	107	112	2,692	2,891	2,549	2,689	2,755	140.0	254.4	267.6	287.7	308.6
Brazil	2,323	3,042	4,300	4,760	4,500	1,287	1,409	1,302	1,471	1,467	2,989.1	4,285.8	5,600.0	7,000.0	6,600.0
British Guiana	70	83	95	100	-	2,289	2,199	2,212	2,416	-	160.2	182.5	210.1	241.6	-
Chile	13	68	60	66	58	3,515	3,469	3,065	2,808	1,847	45.7	235.9	183.9	185.3	107.1
Colombia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141.4	267.6	490.0	530.0	-
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	146.0	254.2	372.6	211.5	300.0
Paraguay	5	15	16	22	25	1,760	1,760	1,931	1,805	1,764	8.8	26.4	30.9	39.7	44.1
Peru	107	137	115	62	111	1,897	2,206	2,916	2,903	2,973	203.0	302.2	335.3	180.0	330.0
Surinam	37	35	45	40	44	2,081	2,306	2,836	2,772	2,500	77.0	80.7	127.6	110.9	110.0
Uruguay	13	13	36	34	35	2,992	2,862	2,753	2,591	2,823	38.9	37.2	99.1	88.1	98.8
Venezuela	2	11	30	25	50	1,150	1,127	1,030	1,084	1,102	2.3	12.4	30.9	27.1	55.1
Total	2,909	4,001	5,478	5,797	5,697	-	-	-	-	-	3,978.3	5,964.6	7,787.3	8,943.7	8,773.0
AFRICA															
Egypt	463	600	816	730	727	3,233	2,704	3,534	3,536	3,558	1,496.8	1,622.2	2,883.4	2,581.3	2,587.0
French West Africa	3/ 1,562	1,860	-	-	-	3/ 603	598	-	-	-	3/ 942.1	1,111.5	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,207	1,227	1,388	1,553	-	1,157	1,282	1,192	1,097	-	1,396.8	1,572.8	1,654.3	1,703.1	-
Sierra Leone	346	-	781	-	-	1,192	-	773	-	-	412.3	-	604.1	-	-
Total	4,338	5,423	7,165	7,337	7,358	-	-	-	-	-	4,925.6	5,840.2	8,155.3	8,216.1	8,099.4
OCEANIA															
Australia	23	30	31	36	38	4,143	3,703	3,710	4,414	4,716	95.3	111.1	115.0	158.9	179.2
Fiji	10	22	35	-	-	1,940	2,059	1,657	-	-	19.4	45.3	58.0	-	-
Total	40	72	99	104	105	-	-	-	-	-	121.7	176.6	210.1	251.0	270.3
World total	210,850	211,315	226,482	229,626	230,464	-	-	-	-	-	334,776.5	319,356.3	345,437.8	339,271.8	342,125.0

1/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 5-year average. 4/ Average 1931-37. 5/ The area formerly known as French Indochina is now comprised of the Kingdom of Laos, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the State of Vietnam. 6/ Total acreage and production of reporting and nonreporting areas. These statistics are subject to further revision. 7/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production in this area averaged about 6,750 million pounds annually. 8/ Average 1936-37 to 1939-40. 9/ Subject to revision.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

Europe harvested a record rice crop from a record acreage for the fifth successive season. That continent's production of 2,900 million pounds showed a gain of 15 percent from the preceding year and 22 percent from the prewar (1935-39) average output. Crop increases occurred in all countries of production outside the Balkans. In France and Greece where the industry has expanded since the war, the combined production increased from 11 million pounds of rough rice during the prewar (1935-39) average to 172 million pounds in 1950.

The official estimates of acreage and production in Egypt are about the same as a year earlier. The acreage planted was above average and water supplies were sufficient to permit high yields per acre to be harvested for the third successive season. The acreage in Australia again increased and another record crop was produced.

The 1950-51 rice harvest of the Western Hemisphere declined slightly from the preceding year. A drop in North America's production is attributed to smaller acreage in the United States. Record acreages were planted in Mexico and Cuba and new record crops were harvested. Production increased also in Panama, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, but declined in Honduras and Guatemala.

The rice production of South America also is smaller than in 1949-50. Acreage declines in Brazil and Chile reduced the total acreage, although these decreases were offset partly by gains in all of the other countries. This is true especially in Peru, Ecuador, and Argentina. In general, good yields per acre were harvested. Brazil's acreage reduction is estimated at about 6 percent less than last year. Crop conditions were favorable again, however, particularly in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, and above-average yields per acre are expected to be nearly as high as in 1949-50. Production therefore is forecast also at about 6 percent less than last year.

Production increases in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela were due to larger planted acreages and the harvesting of relatively high yields per acre. The 1951 output of Ecuador and Peru was considerably larger than that of a year earlier primarily because of the availability of sufficient water supplies compared with the prevalence of drought in the preceding year. Production in these countries, however, was less than the production of two years ago.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

U. S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING MARCH 1951 1/

United States agricultural exports in March 1951, the ninth month of fiscal year 1950-51, reached $329,977,000 in value, the highest level of the current marketing year. During the same month last year agricultural exports were valued at $253,945,000. The country's exports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at $1,261,373,000 during the month under review against $850,725,000 in March 1950. Agricultural products constituted 26 percent of the total compared with 30 percent during March last year.

On a value basis, cotton continued as the nation's most important agricultural export, shipments to foreign countries being valued at $83,458,000. This represented a reduction of 25 percent from the $111,059,000 worth exported during March a year ago. Wheat and flour remained in second position, with exports valued at $75,859,000 compared with $45,757,000 a year ago, an increase of 66 percent. Third position was held by corn, the exports of which were valued at $24,585,000 against $10,140,000 a year ago, an increase of 141 percent.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features of the March 1951 agricultural exports, compared with March last year, were the large increases in exports of butter, cheese, dried eggs, tallow, apples, grapefruit and oranges, canned fruits, barley, corn, grain sorghums, rice, wheat, peanuts, soybeans and oil, and dried peas and beans. On the other hand, large quantitative reductions are revealed in exports of lard, cotton, dried prunes and raisins, soybean flour, and white potatoes.

Agricultural imports during March reached a value $536,799,000, the highest monthly figure, for the past 20 years and probably an all-time peak to date. During March 1950, agricultural imports were valued at only $306,047,000. The country's imports of all commodities, both agricultural and nonagricultural, amounted in value to $1,033,994,000 compared with $659,835,000 in March last year. Agricultural products constituted 52 percent of the monthly total compared with 46 percent during March a year ago. As usual, the commodities heading the list and far in the lead of any other agricultural products were coffee, wool, rubber, and sugar.

(Text continued on Page 613; table follow)

1/ Fuller details than presented in this summary will be published in United States Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products for March 1951, available on request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected agricultural products during March 1950 and 1951

Commodity exported	Unit	March			
		Quantity		Value	
		1950	1951	1950	1951
		Thousands	Thousands	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:					
Butter	Lb.	235	2,959	158	654
Cheese	Lb.	376	2,021	167	413
Milk, condensed	Lb.	2,514	1,720	551	378
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	5,974	6,613	2,828	3,853
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	25,440	26,535	998	2,257
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	8,694	13,874	1,113	1,990
Eggs, dried	Lb.	93	5,284	79	323
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.	1,021	467	390	262
Pork, total 1/	Lb.	5,584	5,486	1,368	1,827
Horsemeat	Lb.	1,444	1,086	221	122
Lard (including neutral)	Lb.	74,145	55,519	8,906	11,205
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	33,571	41,242	2,618	7,970
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd, excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	706	368	111,059	83,458
Apples, fresh	Lb.	18,147	30,285	995	950
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	7,644	11,846	383	470
Oranges, fresh	Lb.	35,109	42,376	1,908	2,301
Pears, fresh	Lb.	1,833	1,593	159	128
Prunes, dried	Lb.	17,529	2,766	1,214	498
Raisins and currants	Lb.	14,661	2,924	815	519
Fruits, canned	Lb.	6,133	12,408	851	2,141
Fruit juices	Gal.	1,410	2,232	1,348	2,610
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	1,287	5,730	1,763	8,565
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	389	443	936	1,147
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	6,111	12,654	10,140	24,585
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	931	6,684	1,241	9,112
Rice, milled, brown, etc.	Lb.	20,352	58,912	1,586	6,002
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	18,810	33,023	37,677	64,305
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	1,472	2,100	5,708	10,157
Flour, other (100 lb.)	Bag	450	263	2,372	1,397
Hops	Lb.	2,120	2,164	1,716	1,783
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	4,320	14,202	386	1,942
Soybeans (except canned)	Lb.	113,178	146,126	4,791	8,151
Soybean oil, crude and refined	Lb.	26,684	32,561	3,392	6,690
Soybean flour	Lb.	2,176	263	93	16
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	1,942	2,980	685	719
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.	19,419	21,771	8,408	13,577
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	8,593	7,443	4,344	3,654
Beans, dried	Lb.	3,829	20,587	312	1,649
Peas, dried	Lb.	2,865	22,807	248	1,409
Potatoes, white	Lb.	138,840	15,502	855	234
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	5,030	6,763	724	1,043
Total above				225,506	290,466
Food exported for relief, etc.				1,305	2,208
Other agricultural products				27,134	37,303
Total agricultural				253,945	329,977
Total all commodities				850,725	1,261,373

1/ Product weight. Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption of selected agricultural products during March 1950 and 1951

Commodity imported	Unit	March			
		Quantity		Value	
SUPPLEMENTARY		1950	1951	1950	1951
				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Cattle, dutiable	No.	35	23	4,974	5,903
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.	2	1	465	527
Casein and lactarene	Lb.	2,517	5,868	360	1,971
Cheese	Lb.	3,540	4,477	1,784	2,131
Hides and skins	Lb.	21,609	19,814	7,442	8,760
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.	7,226	15,826	2,336	5,069
Wool, unmfd, excl. free, etc.	Lb.	33,979	51,922	19,279	68,425
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	61	3	12,327	595
Jute and jute butts, unmfd. (2,240 lb.)	Ton	9	12	2,454	3,370
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.	328	226	685	535
Olives in brine	Gal.	1,686	1,501	2,672	2,868
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.	7,917	11,226	962	1,087
Barley malt	Lb.	9,343	9,770	437	555
Hops	Lb.	30	163	33	242
Almonds, shelled	Lb.	95	1,049	34	360
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled	Lb.	0	1/	0	98
Cashew nuts	Lb.	2,323	3,897	773	1,460
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.	10,656	6,843	1,754	1,123
Castor beans	Lb.	17,917	17,094	911	1,521
Copra	Lb.	55,807	83,974	4,695	9,941
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.	1/	1/	2	1/
Coconut oil	Lb.	7,152	12,903	912	1,888
Palm oil	Lb.	1,473	7,377	148	966
Tung oil	Lb.	6,380	4,371	1,433	1,406
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton	437	384	43,344	40,491
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.	37,331	25,355	2,032	4,750
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.	6,175	5,919	4,448	3,955
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.	1,250	1,607	1,990	2,448
Potatoes, white	Lb.	59,929	16,498	1,218	264
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.	36,606	42,170	1,549	3,021
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmfd., free in bond	Lb.	32,651	14,840	12,584	16,478
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch	4,871	4,347	5,058	4,753
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.	174,392	308,633	73,088	152,427
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.	54,960	108,130	12,486	32,912
Tea	Lb.	13,773	9,627	6,965	4,292
Spices (complementary)	Lb.	8,036	11,845	4,951	10,582
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	13	15	3,143	5,420
Rubber, crude	Lb.	137,717	141,239	22,947	74,345
Total above				262,675	476,939
Other agricultural products				43,372	59,860
Total agricultural products				306,047	536,799
Total all commodities				659,835	1,033,994

1/ Less than 500. Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features revealed by the March 1951 imports, compared with those for the same mouth a year ago, were the large increases in imports of casein and lactarene, canned and corned beef apparel wool, hops, shelled almonds, cashew nuts, copra, coconut oil, palm oil, fresh tomatoes, coffee, cocoa or cacao beans, spices, and rubber. At the same time, however, the figures for the month under review reveal large quantitative reductions in imports of hides and skins, cotton, shredded coconut meat, tung oil, molasses, white potatoes, carpet wool and tea.

On balance, United States imports of agricultural products during the month of March 1951 exceeded the value of agricultural exports by $206,822,000. During the same month last year, agricultural imports exceeded exports in value by only $52,102,000.--By Leo J. Schaben.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILS

U.S. TRADE IN FATS AND OILS

United States exports of fats and oils on an oil equivalent basis totaled 477 million pounds during the first quarter of 1951 compared with 572 million pounds during the corresponding period last year--a decrease of 16 percent. (Table 1.)

Shipments held up fairly well in January but February and March were about one-fifth lower than 1950. Important decreases occurred in crude soybean oil, cottonseed and oil, crude peanut oil and lard. These decreases were offset in part by increased exports of soybeans and refined soybean oil, inedible tallow, and other increases of lesser importance.

During the same period, imports rose sharply from 1950. (Table 2.) On an oil equivalent basis, January-March imports for 1951 were 391 million pounds compared with 273 million pounds during January-March 1950. Imports thus increased 43 percent while exports were decreasing 16 percent. Import increases occurred for copra and for most oils, including babassu, castor, coconut, oiticica, olive, palm, rapeseed, tung and herring oil. Babassu kernels and castor beans were down and there was a sharp (50 percent) decrease in the general category of "all others."

The United States still maintained its recently (1949) acquired position as a net exporter of fats and oils but the excess of exports over imports dropped from 299 million pounds in the first 3 months of 1950 to 86 million pounds this year. By buying more and selling less, the United States is generally considered to have contributed significantly to sharply rising prices for fats and oils on the world market between early 1950 and early 1951. For this reason, importing countries are particularly concerned about the balance of net exports from this country.

Table 1. UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds, January-March 1951 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1950 1/	January-March 1950 1/	January-March 1951 1/
Soybeans	1,000 bu.	2/ 4,793	19,110	3,808	6,460
Soybean oil:					
Refined	" lbs.	3/ 6,467	73,649	15,210	26,105
Crude	" "		226,142	84,439	44,028
Coconut oil:					
Refined	" "	3,789	10,696	1,959	1,532
Crude	" "	10,442	13,601	2,296	3,358
Corn oil:					
Refined	" "	3/ 500	1,183	294	106
Crude	" "		166	70	130
Cottonseed	" "	3/	21,628	13,682	8,564
Cottonseed oil:					
Refined	" "	4,793	41,992	16,700	6,756
Crude	" "	1,515	98,223	33,820	6,306
Flaxseed	" bu.	3/	3,557	1,006	906
Linseed oil	" lbs.	1,280	24,154	3,338	5,107
Peanuts:					
Shelled	" "	3/ 452	4/ 52,287	23,024	28,144
Unshelled	" "		1,076	637	830
Peanut oil:					
Refined	" "	3/ 5/ 325	11,638	3,287	1,404
Crude	" "		27,972	22,646	2,503
Veg. stearine	" "	3/	558	498	119
Veg. tallow & wax	" "	3/	1,478	263	397
Fatty veg. acids	" "	3/	4/ 52,272	9,522	6,737
Oleomargarine	" "	180	2,434	738	404
Cooking fats	" "	2,111	10,559	3,159	2,430
Lard	" "	165,636	4/ 466,065	189,881	135,283
Tallow:					
Edible	" "	409	6,014	1,624	1,327
Inedible	" "	2/ 1,552	468,614	84,079	106,403
Neat's foot oil	" "	792	886	159	67
Stearic acid	" "	568	6,421	1,258	2,564
Other animal fats and greases	" "	6,756	66,568	12,709	14,183
Fish oils excluding medicinal	" "	2,467	75,974	9,704	7,400
All others (as oil)	" "	33,020	20,803	4,562	7,208
Total as oil	1,000 lbs.	285,870	4/ 1,991,625	571,601	476,667

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Average of less than 5 years. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ Revised. 5/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

Table 2. UNITED STATES: Imports 1/ of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds, January-March 1951 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1950 2/	January-March 1950 2/	January-March 1951 2/
Babassu kernels	1,000 lbs.	3/	32,811	22,925	5,548
Babassu oil	" "	4/ 346	18,220	1,676	11,335
Castor beans	" "	132,924	262,227	67,838	59,898
Castor oil	" "	226	46,590	9,908	24,037
Flaxseed	1,000 bu.	18,470	2	2	5/
Linseed oil	1,000 lbs.	713	69	1	1
Copra	Short tons	230,000	466,628	99,969	152,280
Coconut oil	1,000 lbs.	342,717	137,744	29,728	41,942
Citicica oil	" "	4/ 7,673	13,373	186	3,423
Olive oil:					
Edible	" "	62,811	79,288	190	22,649
Inedible	" "	35,448	8,764	-	2,129
Palm oil	" "	321,482	56,400	3,739	17,054
Rapeseed oil:					
Denatured	" "	11,063	4,330	1,038	4,213
Sesame seed	" "	58,425	20,646	2,740	6,365
Sesame oil: edible	" "	10,651	248	190	19
Tea seed oil	" "	13,159	77	-	-
Tucum kernels	" "	4/ 9,810	15,919	3,198	-
Tung oil	" "	123,190	112,484	11,941	13,017
Herring oil	" "	10	8,140	5,791	8,262
All others (as oil)	" "	542,433	82,444	34,575	17,616
Total as oil	1,000 lbs.	2,244,764	1,311,379	272,590	391,010

1/ Imports for consumption. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Less than 500 bushels.

Compiled from official sources.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S 1950 FATS AND OILS SITUATION

The principal developments in the Dominican Republic fats and oils industry during 1950 were a moderate expansion in the production of most fats and oils products, accompanied by price rises; an expansion in the capacity for the production of edible vegetable oils; the importation of edible and inedible fats on a small scale; and a continuation of the policy of attempting to obtain self-sufficiency in fats and oils.

The 1950 peanut crop was smaller than the 1949 harvest, according to H.R. Zerbel of the American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo, but large carry-over stocks of uncrushed nuts permitted peanut oil production to increase in 1950 to 2,822 short tons against 2,657 in the previous year. Peanut output dropped to 19,025 tons of nuts in the shell in 1950 against 22,800 tons in 1949. The harvested area dropped to 55,063 acres from 62,536.

During 1950 the Sociedad Industrial Dominicana in conjunction with the Dominican Department of Agriculture assisted in the development of local peanut production by loaning tractors, trucks, seed and bags to producers. Producers were paid 6 pesos per 50 kilogram bag of peanuts in the shell (equivalent to $108.86 per short ton) until late 1950 when the price was raised to 7 pesos ($127).

The peanut oil factory expects the 1951 peanut crop to total between 22,000 and 27,000 tons and hopes that by 1952 production will reach 33,000 tons, the maximum quantity that the factory can handle with its present equipment. The factory, which had 4 expellers during 1949, purchased 4 more during the latter months of 1950 and is now able to crush approximately 100 tons of peanuts per day.

The 1950 harvest of coconuts totaled 15.6 million nuts compared with 19.1 million in 1949. Inasmuch as 1950 plantings of coconut trees were 75 percent greater than the previous year, it is expected that the trend of recent years toward a decline in output will soon end. Despite the smaller harvest, the quantity of coconut oil available for the domestic soap industry increased slightly to 832 tons from 702 tons a year earlier. Wholesale prices of dried coconuts increased from $2.50 per 100 nuts at the beginning of 1950 to $4.00 at the close of the year.

Production of animal fats remained at about the 1949 level. Commercial production of tallow amounted to 506 tons and lard 3,392 tons. An additional 1,800 tons of inedible tallow was imported from the United States for the soap industry.

Prospects for 1951 indicate a consumption of edible and inedible fats and oils at approximately the 1950 level. No substantial imports of edible fats and oils will be permitted unless severe shortages develop.

FATS AND OILS SITUATION IN BELGIUM

The domestic production of vegetable oilseeds from the 1950 crop in Belgium amounted to only about 496,000 bushels of flaxseed and 3,050 short tons of rapeseed, according to R.N. Anderson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Brussels. This was somewhat less than during the 2 previous years, when the area devoted to these crops was larger. Yields also were below 1949, although considered about normal.

Production of oil in 1950 was reported by the Belgian Federation of Oil Manufacturers at 32,140 short tons of crude linseed oil and 50,222 tons of other crude oils. Refined oil production was said to total 80,264 tons, hydrogenated 22,656 tons, acid oils 10,704 tons and other oils 8,094 tons. Statistics are not available for comparison of the 1950 production with previous years.

Margarine production totaled 71,785 tons last year--slightly below 1949. The production of lard was exceptionally large amounting to 11,270 tons. This was the largest output since the war and exceeded the prewar 1936-38 average of 10,830 tons. There were also 7,165 tons of beef tallow produced in Belgium during 1950. The production of oilcake was 61,395 tons from flaxseed and 81,975 tons from other oilseeds and nuts.

Last year net imports of vegetable oilseeds amounted to 208,760 tons, which in terms of oil content is estimated at about 67,000 tons. In addition net imports of oil, mostly crude oil, amounted to about 51,000 tons. Imports of oilseeds were smaller than the previous year but much larger than in 1948. Oil imports were larger than in 1949. Flaxseed was the principal imported seed with soybeans, copra, peanuts and palm kernels following in the order named. The principal suppliers of oilseeds were Canada, the United States, the Philippines, Belgian Congo, China and Mexico. The oil imports were mainly raw palm oil and peanut oil. Almost half of the 37,544 tons of vegetable oils exported during 1950 went to Western Germany. Oilseed exports were just below 2,000 tons, of which 43 percent was sent to France.

Belgian consumption of oil, not including linseed oil, may be estimated at about 100,000 tons in 1950. This estimate was made by deducting exports and a small quantity for stock adjustment from total availabilities. Consumption of linseed oil may be estimated at about 22,600 tons for 1950.

Consumption of margarine in Belgium seems to have been stabilized during the past 2 or 3 years at between 68,000 and 71,500 tons annually. Compared with the immediate prewar period, the situation has varied little. On the other hand, the consumption of butter has increased to 24 pounds per capita per year as compared with 20 pounds before the war.

Stocks of oilseeds at the end of the year were somewhat smaller than a year earlier but slightly larger stocks of crude oil made up the difference. On December 31, 1950, stocks were reported to be 10,150 tons of flaxseed and 10,030 tons of other seeds and nuts, 3,435 tons of crude linseed oil and 17,260 tons of other crude oils. Stocks of refined edible oils were 2,200 tons, of hydrogenated oil 1,690 tons, of acid oils 1,300 tons, and other oils 170 tons. The Belgian Government has requested the industry to maintain a 3 months supply of oil. This necessitates stocks of oilseeds and oil amounting to about 24,250 tons in terms of refined oil.

Prices of all oils and oilseeds increased during 1950 along with other prices. The wholesale price index of all fats and oils increased by about 48 percent from January 1950 to January 1951. The retail price of margarine which is fixed by the Government remained almost the same throughout the year but was increased sharply in February 1951.

One importer stated that there is a shortage of castor beans and that peanuts are difficult to obtain. In February 1951 it was learned that certain quantities of soybeans were purchased from Manchuria at $144.50 per metric ton ($3.93 per bushel) containing 17-1/2 to 18 percent oil. The standard terms from the United States were said to be $148.70 per ton ($4.05) without a guaranty of oil content which was usually lower than that specified for shipment from Manchuria.

EGYPT'S VEGETABLE OILSEED PRODUCTION IN 1950

Egyptian vegetable oilseed production in 1950 is estimated at 767,800 short tons compared with 636,000 tons in 1949, according to Quincy F. Roberts, American Consul General, Alexandria.

Production of cottonseed amounted to 746,800 tons in 1950 and accounted for 97 percent of the total oilseed output for the year. This represents an increase of 24 percent from the 1949 outturn of 601,700 tons.

Production of other oilseeds in 1950 included 15,430 tons of peanuts, 3,860 tons of sesame seed and 1,650 tons of flaxseed. Peanut and sesame seed production dropped almost 2,750 and 8,820 tons, respectively, from last year. The fact that a large number of local sesame cultivators have switched to cotton growing for higher profits accounts for the reduction in the crop in the past 2 years.

Vegetable oil production in Egypt again consisted primarily of cottonseed oil. About 99,210 tons were produced in 1950 compared with 105,230 tons the year before. Only 495 tons of linseed oil and 1,870 tons of sesame seed oil were produced in 1950.

Current annual consumption of cottonseed oil in Egypt averages around 110,000 tons as compared to the prewar average of about 44,100 tons. Cottonseed cake consumption jumped from an almost insignificant quantity in the prewar years to around 400,000 tons last year.

Imports of oilseeds totaled 13,970 tons in 1950 against 14,470 tons in 1949. The Sudan accounted for about 92 percent of the 1950 imports which consisted mostly of peanuts and sesame, the remainder being supplied by India, Hong Kong, Eritrea, Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

Soap oils accounted for around 83 percent--7,730 tons-- of the total vegetable oil imports in 1950. Edible oil imports amounted to 1,240 tons while imports of paint and varnish oil were only 490 tons during the same period. Total vegetable oil imports in 1949 were 9,980 tons.

Exports of cottonseed oil in 1950 totaled 5,900 tons, a considerable increase from the 1949 shipments of 1,030 tons. The Netherlands alone received 3,400 tons in 1950. According to official Egyptian statistics, cottonseed cake exports for 1950 reached 47,630 tons, with the United Kingdom receiving the largest quantity.

Cottonseed prices, which are fixed by the Egyptian Government, ranged from the equivalent of $16.60 per short ton for Karnak seed to $22.21 for Zayora, Ashmouni, and Giza strains in 1950.

In early December 1950, cottonseed oil sold on the Alexandria market for 20.9 to 31.4 cents per pound when the official price was only 11.0 cents.

Cotton acreage for 1951 has been considerably reduced by the Government in order to increase the cultivation of cereals. The latest official estimate of the 1951 crop placed the output at about 8,384,000 cantars (415,220 tons) and created an atmosphere of anxiety among the oil pressing concerns. On the basis of this estimate, the 1951 cottonseed oil shortage is expected to reach 27,500 tons. It was reported, however, that large stocks of Sudanese cottonseed will be purchased by the Government to meet expectant demands.

Flaxseed production is expected to reach 2,200 tons in 1951 while forecasts place the sesame crop at about 50 percent lower than the 1950 level.

SOUTH AFRICAN FISH OIL PRODUCTION DOUBLED IN 1950

South African fish oil production in 1950 is estimated at 12,320 short tons, compared with 6,050 tons in 1949 and less than 560 tons in 1947, according to Edward W. Burgess, Vice Consul, American Consulate General, Capetown.

During 1950 there were 10 fish processing plants in operation in the Union of South Africa and 3 in South West Africa. Combined capacity of all existing plants amounted to approximately 250 short tons of raw fish per hour. The 3 plants at Walvis Bay (South West Africa) whose capacities are included in this total had a capacity of 65 short tons per hour.

Alarmed by the rapid mushrooming of the fish oil and meal productive capacity, and uncertain as to the extent of the resources, the Union Government on September 29, 1950, imposed a ban on the erection of new plants or the expansion of existing plants for a period of 3 years on the west coast of the Union between Olifants River and Bok Point.

The distribution of fish body oil in the Union of South Africa is controlled by the South African Fish Oil Producers Association, (Pty) Ltd. an organization of producers. The oil is hauled by tank cars from the factories to the railhead at Vredenberg, Cape Province, from which it is delivered to consumers. Crude oil from factories in South West Africa is shipped by sea.

Exports of fish body oil during 1950 amounted to approximately 1,120 tons, principally to the Netherlands. While the export of fish oil is not banned for the current year, it is subject to permit and, because of the large demand for oil by the soap and margarine industry, it is not expected that any export permits will be granted during the current year.

Prices of crude fish oil are fixed by the producers at £70 per long ton ($175 per short ton), factory, plus a premium of 1 shilling (14 cents) per unit of iodine below 180 units and less 1 shilling (14 cents) per unit above 200 units. This price was agreed upon by producers in December 1950. Earlier in the year prices ranging from £60 to £70 ($150-$175) were obtained on the domestic market and as high as £85 ($212.50) on the export market.

With a 3-year moratorium on new plant construction, and the large demand for fish body oil within the Union, there is little prospect of supply exceeding demand in the foreseeable future. The industry, now protected from local competition by government order, is not pressing either for higher local prices or permission to export for the time being at least; producers are content to reap the guaranteed profit offered by a controlled domestic market.

Estimates of production during 1951 range from 15,680 to 17,920 tons, the increase resulting from increased plant capacity and a larger fishing fleet manned by more experienced crews. The current year will be one in which the industry will attempt to consolidate its position and improve production methods, as well as provide better housing and other facilities for workers.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S WHALE AND FISH OIL PRODUCTION DECREASES IN 1950

Newfoundland's production of whale and fish oils in 1950 is estimated at 4,720 short tons, or a decrease of about 9 percent from the 1949 output of 5,170 tons, according to A. Hugh Douglas, Jr., American Consulate General, St. John's.

During the 1950 season, 485 whales were caught by the 2 Newfoundland firms engaged in offshore whaling, compared with 541 in 1949 and 746 in 1948. Whale oil yield from the 1950 catch amounted to about 3,400 tons, or a decrease of 15 percent from the 4,010 tons produced in the previous year. Sperm oil production was 320 tons in 1950, or a little more than half of the output in 1949.

According to reports, the decline in catch last season was due to the fact that the weather during the summer and fall was unsuitable for successful operations and the whales remained farther offshore than usual.

In 1949 a newly organized firm, the Arctic Fisheries Products, Ltd., began inshore operations to catch pothead whales, also known as blackfish. During the past season approximately 1,400 potheads were taken and the oil yield amounted to about 230 tons. Only 15 tons were produced during 1949. It is hoped that production of pothead oil will be doubled in 1951.

Production of fish oils, chiefly herring oil (610 tons) and bream oil (160 tons), improved in 1950. Compared with 1949, herring oil and bream oil (rosefish) output increased about 50 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Newfoundland's sealing operations in 1950 resulted in a total catch of 81,908 seals from which around 1,050 tons of oil were produced. This is less than half the seal oil output in 1949. Four vessels, 3 of Newfoundland registry, participated in the seal hunt during March and April 1950.

Exports of marine oils in 1950, excluding cod liver oil, totaled 5,780 tons compared with 6,220 tons in 1949. Exports included 3,410 tons of ordinary whale oil, 320 tons of sperm oil, 230 tons of pothead whale oil, 645 tons of herring oil, 130 tons of bream oil, and 1,040 tons of seal oil.

The United States and Canada were the principal markets for bream oil during 1950. Belgium imported the total output of pothead oil and 96 percent of the ordinary whale oil. The United Kingdom purchased 96 percent of the sperm oil while Canada took the balance. Ninety-four percent of the total export of herring oil went to the Netherlands and Italy received 96 percent of the seal oil.

The most significant development in the marine oils industry was the decision last fall by the Provincial Government to establish a hardening plant for the treatment of oils in Newfoundland. It is intended to use the plant, which will be constructed on the St. John's area of the Avalon Peninsula, for processing the whale, seal, and fish oils from the entire eastern seaboard of Canada.

Production of fish and marine oils is expected to expand substantially in 1951 in response to the currently favorable outlook for marketing.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

GERMAN HOG NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE

Total hog numbers in Western Germany, according to a March 1951 census, were placed at 11.2 million head, around 32 percent greater than a year earlier. In March, total hog population surpassed the seasonal prewar average for the first time since the war. Bred sows have increased again as compared with the December 1950 census, indicating further gains in the hog population. Strong consumer demand for pork products coupled with a large potato crop in 1950 materially assisted in supporting hog numbers. Hog raising presently is the most profitable branch of Western German farming and only an insufficient supply of feed or a price drop could end the upward development.

WESTERN GERMANY: Hog numbers in March 1951, with comparisons

Classification	Average 1935-38	1950 1/	1951 2/	Increase (+) or decrease (-) 1951 / 1935-38	Increase (+) or decrease (-) 1951 / 1950
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suckling pigs	2,844	2,095	3,118	+ 9.6	+48.8
Pigs, 8 weeks to 6 months	5,018	4,043	5,216	+ 4.0	+29.0
Boars	45	52	38	-16.3	-26.4
Sows - bred only	606	595	697	+15.1	+17.2
- total	1,029	958	1,157	+12.4	+20.8
Slaughter hogs:					
6 months to 1 year	1,666	1,239	1,534	- 7.9	+23.9
1 year and older	163	118	132	-18.8	+11.7
Total hogs	10,765	8,505	11,195	+ 4.0	+31.6

1/ March 1950 census.
2/ Preliminary

Compiled from official sources.

HOG NUMBERS IN AUSTRIA INCREASE

Austrian hog numbers, as reported in the March 1951 census, were substantially larger than in March of 1950. Although the hog population totaled about 2.1 million head, a new seasonal postwar high, bred sows were placed around 10 percent below a year earlier. This indicates a general tapering of numbers for the second half of 1951 and early 1952.

AUSTRIA: Hog census on March 3, 1951, with comparisons

Classification	1948	1949	1950	1951	1951 as percent of 1950
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Pigs under 8 weeks	872	256	388	441	113.6
Pigs 8 weeks to 6 months		549	778	980	125.9
Boars	32	30	38	26	68.3
Sows - bred only	1/	121	152	136	89.5
- total	236	235	280	273	97.6
Hogs for slaughter and fattening	166	204	272	374	137.4
Total hogs	1,306	1,274	1,756	2,094	119.2

1/ Not available.

Compiled from official sources.

Because of the rapid rate at which hog numbers have been increased and particularly because of the heavy feeding of bread grains, curtailment of breeding programs by the Government is likely.

Any further development of pig holdings would necessarily rely upon imports of feedstuffs and the 1951 indigenous harvests of fodder grains and other feeds, as well as the relationship between meat, grain and fodder prices.

NEW MEAT EXPORT REGULATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Regulations governing Netherlands meat exports have now been rescinded by the Control Board for Livestock and Meat. The new regulations embody the following points: (1) No export rights can be derived from meat, slaughter cattle, and slaughter hogs imported under licenses granted after April 11, 1951; (2) A fee of 15 cents per kilo (2.2 pounds) must be paid to the Control Board on all veal exports; (3) A levy of 45 cents per kilo (2.2 pounds) is imposed on all exports of slightly processed meat such as beef fillets, rump steaks, and pork chops; (4) No licenses will be issued for exports of dressed beef or pork except for shipment to the United States Army in western Europe.

The Government's reasons for establishing the new regulations are the shortage of tin plate for meat canning in the Netherlands and the desire to increase local market prices for beef as a measure to lower consumption. Trade circles believe that the Dutch bacon contract with the United Kingdom has been an important factor. If the Dutch exporters were to continue shipments of pork to Germany or to any other country paying a relatively high price, the Government probably would be forced to subsidize heavily bacon exports to England.

CANADIAN POULTRY NUMBERS TO INCREASE IN 1951

Canadian poultry numbers, both broilers and layers, are expected to increase considerably in 1951 over 1950 1/. The 1951 spring chick hatch is well above last year's rate so far. The fall and winter hatch, which is chiefly for broiler production, was 75 percent greater during September-December 1950 than during the corresponding 4 months in 1949. This heavier broiler hatch continued through January.

In addition to the greater broiler hatch, the regular chick hatch for the laying flocks also increased over last year. The hatch for January and February of 1951 was up 37 percent over the same months for 1950 and that for March was up 15 percent. By April, the hatch fell off, chiefly because of a lack of hatching eggs. It is estimated, however, that the total hatch will be sufficiently high so that poultry numbers and laying flocks during the fall and winter of 1951-52 will be 12 to 15 percent higher than for a year earlier. The turkey poult hatch to the end of March was running about 3 percent below last year's.

Poultry numbers in Canada have decreased each year since the peak year of 1947 when, due to the loss of the British market, the poultry industry began adjusting to a domestic market. One reason for the expected increase in poultry numbers in 1951 is the large supply of feed grain in Canada, particularly in the West. Other reasons are the high prices for competitive foods, especially meat and the generally favorable price level for both poultry and eggs in relation to costs.

Despite the anticipated increase in Canadian poultry and egg production, it is expected that Canada will have little, if any, poultry and eggs for export to the United States during 1951.

1/ Total poultry numbers in 1950 were 65.4 million on June 1 and 37.3 million on December 1.

SYRIA WOOL PRODUCTION INCREASES

The year 1950 was very favorable for the sheep of Syria. A good winter rainfall produced good pastures throughout the country, and this resulted in healthy, well-fed animals, according to J. Forrest Crawford, Agricultural Attache, American Legation, Beirut. The 1950-51 winter was mild and the spring lambing season was favorable. The Veterinary Service reports that normal precautions have been taken against sheep pox and other diseases. As a result of the past favorable year sheep numbers have increased about 10 percent.

Trade circles estimate Syria's 1950 wool production at around 13 million pounds or about 11 percent more than the reported 1949 output and about the same as the 1948 wool crop. The 1951 crop is currently forecast at about 15 million pounds, grease basis, some of which already is appearing on the market.

SWEDEN MAINTAINS RATE OF WOOL CONSUMPTION

Sweden has maintained a high rate of wool and woolen yarn imports and consumption in 1950, in spite of the high world prices for wool, according to George Frostenson, Agricultural Analyst, American Embassy, Stockholm. The number of workers in the mills remained unchanged but the production of textiles declined somewhat to about 32 million pounds. This decline was partly due to reduced demand for heavier textiles.

Imports of wool and wool products were unrestricted in 1950, however, in 1951 and over-all allocation of 600 million kronor has been made in regard to imports of all textiles. Total imports of wool amounted to about 25 million in 1950 and stocks have been decreased by about 10 percent. Imports and consumption in 1951 are expected to decline slightly as the use of rayon for blending, which started in 1950, increases.

BELGIUM'S WOOL TRADE RISES IN 1950

Belgium's imports of raw wool in 1950 totaled 192 million pounds, actual weight, according to the National Statistical Institute, as reported by Robert N. Anderson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Brussels. Imports in 1949 amounted to 170 million pounds and totaled 140 million pounds in 1948. Australia was the principal source of supply with 133 million pounds in 1950. Other principal sources were the United Kingdom and Union of South Africa.

Washed wool imports and exports increased in 1950 compared with 1949, but Belgium remained on a net export basis with shipments of nearly 18.0 million pounds, during 1950 against 16.6 million pounds, net export in 1949. Most important destinations of Belgium's total exports of 37 million pounds of washed wool were Western Germany and the Netherlands.

Net exports of wool yarn in 1950 were 18.6 million pounds, all combed wool yarn, a small decrease from the previous year. Net exports of woolen goods amounted to about 22 million pounds, an increase of 9 million pounds over 1949.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

CANADIAN GROWERS PLAN SMALLER WHEAT, LARGER COARSE GRAIN AREA

Canada's 1951 grain acreage is expected to show a net increase of about a half million acres compared with the 1950 acreage, on the basis of farmers' intentions to plant, as of April 20. Indications at that time pointed to some shift from wheat and summer fallow to barley and oats, accounting for most of the change. It is pointed out that these changes are merely indicative of farmers' plans at the end of April, and acreage actually seeded to spring crops may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending on conditions affecting seeding subsequent to April 30.

Seeding has been late in some areas of the Prairie Provinces, especially in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but favorable weather was reported in mid-May, and seeding was expected to become general by that time. Soil conditions were generally good-to-excellent with good subsoil reserves throughout most of the grain area.

Wheat acreage intended for all Canada is 26 million acres, a million acres less than the area sown to wheat in 1950. Though less than the large seedings of the past 2 years, the intended acreage is about 16 percent larger than the average for the 5 years ended 1947. Winter wheat acreage remaining for harvest this year is 854,000 acres, compared with 928,000 acres a year ago. Winterkill of fall wheat in Ontario was 7 percent of the 918,000 acres sown there last fall. The condition of fall wheat expressed in percentage of long-time average yields per acre was 100 percent at the end of April, compared with 90 percent a year earlier. All the winter wheat reported is in Ontario; some winter wheat grown in the West, not reported separately, is included with spring wheat. The total of such wheat is believed to be less than 200,000 acres, most of it in Alberta.

Intended wheat seedings in the Prairie Provinces are placed at 24.9 million acres compared with 25.8 million a year ago. Declines of about a half million acres each in Alberta and Saskatchewan are only partially offset by a moderate increase expected in Manitoba.

CANADA: Intended acreage of grain and summerfallow, as of April 30, 1951, with comparisons

Crop	Average 1943-47	1948	1949	1950	Intentions 1951	1951 intentions as percent of 1950
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Wheat:						
Fall 1/	641	859	805	928	854	92
Spring	21,812	23,022	26,736	26,093	25,184	96
Total	22,453	23,881	27,541	27,021	26,038	96
Oats	13,448	11,200	11,389	11,575	12,038	104
Barley	7,352	6,495	6,017	6,625	7,675	116
Rye:						
Fall 1/	483	1,606	873	830	815	98
Spring	233	497	309	338	427	126
Total	716	2,103	1,182	1,168	1,242	106
Summerfallow	20,028	19,991	20,958	20,996	20,275	97

1/ Fall-sown acreage remaining for harvest.

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

For the country as a whole, intentions indicated about 12 million acres of oats to be seeded. That would be an increase of about a half-million acres over the 1950 acreage, but would still be 10 percent less than the average in oats during the 5 years ended 1947. Increases are expected for most Provinces; Quebec, with no change, and Ontario, with a slight reduction from last years acreage expected, are the exceptions. The bulk of the increase is expected in the Prairie Provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta alone accounting for almost 85 percent of the gain.

The intended barley acreage is put at 7.7 million acres, compared with 6.6 million in 1950 and 7.3 million for the 1943-47 average. The most significant increases over last year's acreages are indicated for Saskatchewan and Alberta where the gains planned in barley roughly approximate the reductions in wheat acreage in those provinces.

A small increase over the 1950 rye acreage is expected. The planned acreage of 1.2 million acres is about 75 percent larger than the 1943-47 average. The increase to 427,000 acres in spring acreage more than offsets a slight decline in the fall rye acreage remaining for harvest, now reported at 815,000 acres. Winterkill was placed at 52,000 acres, 6 percent of the fall acreage seeded. Condition of fall rye on April 30 was 94 percent of the long-time average, compared with 89 percent a year earlier.

Land in summerfallow is planned at 20.3 million acres, compared with 21 million in 1950. All reported summerfallow is in the Prairie Provinces. Planned reductions of 723,000 acres include 392,000 in Manitoba, 250,000 in Saskatchewan and 81,000 in Alberta. This brings land summerfallowed near the level of the 1943-47 average.

TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

ARGENTINA'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION HIGHER; CONSUMPTION STEADY, EXPORTS AND IMPORTS LOWER

Argentina's 1950-51 tobacco harvest is now estimated at 34 percent above 1949-50 and 26 percent above 1948-49, according to C.B. McKnight, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Factory consumption in 1950 was about the same as in 1949. Exports of leaf in 1950 were 50 percent below 1949 and imports in 1950 were very small compared with 1949.

The country's 1950-51 leaf harvest is now placed at 73.2 million pounds compared with a revised estimate of 54.5 million in 1949-50 and 58.2 million in 1948-49. The increase in production is primarily attributed to increased acreage, smaller abandonment and favorable growing conditions. Flue-cured leaf accounted for 9.9 million pounds or 14 percent of Argentina's 1950-51 production, dark air-cured made up 39.8 million pounds or 54 percent, light air-cured 8.2 million pounds or 11 percent, fire-cured 3.3 million or 5 percent and Bahia and others types 11.5 million pounds or 16 percent.

Factory consumption of leaf tobacco, domestic and imported, totaled 60.7 million pounds during 1950 compared with 59.1 million pounds in 1949. Of the total leaf consumed, domestically-produced leaf constituted 48.4 million pounds, or 80 percent, and imported leaf 12.3 million pounds, or 20 percent.

Exports of leaf tobacco in 1950 was 1.1 million pounds compared with 2.2 million pounds in 1949 and 2.3 million pounds in 1948. No information is available as to the destination of leaf exports in 1950.

Imports of manufactured tobacco products in 1950 were very small compared with 1949 imports. The 1950 cigarette imports were only 29,537 packages compared with 254,086 packages in 1949, smoking tobacco imports in 1950 totaled 379 packages compared with 25,650 packages in 1949, and cigar imports in 1950 totaled 14,722 pieces compared with 906,859 pieces in 1949. The source of Argentina's 1950 tobacco imports are not available at this time.

SPAIN'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS HIGHER

Spain's 1950 tobacco production is estimated at about 10 percent above 1949 according to Burl Stugard, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Madrid. Imports of leaf tobacco during 1950 were 34 percent above 1949.

The country's 1950 leaf crop is estimated at 34.0 million pounds from 31,569 acres compared with 31.0 million pounds from 29,696 acres in 1949 and 30.9 million pounds from 21,992 acres in 1948.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 totaled 55.7 million pounds. This corresponds to 41.6 million pounds imported in 1949 and 33.0 million pounds in 1948. The Dominican Republic, the most important source of leaf during 1950, supplied 28.3 million pounds or 51 percent of the total imports. The Philippine Republic, the second most important source, supplied 10.8 million pounds or 20 percent, Brazil ranked third with 9.0 million or 16 percent, Paraguay, fourth with 4.7 million or 8 percent, Cuba, fifth with 2.3 million or 4 percent. The United States supplied only 1 percent of Spain's 1950 leaf imports. In addition to leaf Spain imported 94,798 pounds of cigars from Cuba in 1950.

BRITISH EAST AFRICAN TEA PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH

Production of tea in the British East African territories of Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda reached a peak of 19,903,000 pounds in 1950, according to R.M. Schneider, American Consulate General, Nairobi. This was 19 percent higher than the 1949 output of 16,712,000 pounds and slightly exceeded the previous record production of 19,606,000 pounds in 1942. In prewar years (1935-39), British East African tea production averaged 10,261,000 pounds annually.

Tea production by territories in 1950 was as follows: Kenya 14,600,000 pounds, Uganda 3,800,000 pounds, and Tanganyika 1,503,000 pounds. In 1949, Kenya produced 11,900,000 pounds, Uganda 3,360,000 pounds, and Tanganyika 1,452,000 pounds. British East African acreage of mature tea in 1950 was estimated officially at 34,375, compared with 32,722 acres in 1949. Acreage in 1950 by territories was as follows: Kenya 18,000, Uganda 7,000, and Tanganyika 9,375.

British East African tea exports in 1950 amounted to 12,443,000 pounds, compared with exports of 9,190,000 pounds in 1949. Principal destinations in 1950 and the amount shipped to each were: Canada 3,056,000 pounds, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan 2,677,000 pounds, United States 2,525,000 pounds, and United Kingdom 2,139,000 pounds. Local consumption in British East Africa during 1950 was estimated at

9,000,000 pounds, supplied from domestic production except for small imports of selected Ceylon and Indian teas. Carry-over stocks of tea on January 1, 1951 amounted to 360,000 pounds, compared with carry-over stocks of 1,900,000 pounds on January 1, 1950.

Until 1950, the shortage of seed was the principal factor limiting expansion of tea-producing areas in British East Africa. Nurseries are now well stocked with locally developed seedlings, and a steady increase in acreage is expected. In the new tea area of the Southern Province of Tanganyika, climatic and soil conditions have been found very favorable and acreage and production should increase sharply during the next 5 years. Private capital investment in this area has received official encouragement from the Tanganyika Government in the allocation of Crown lands, the granting of loans, and upward local price revision.

INDIAN BLACK PEPPER PRODUCTION HIGHER

Production of black pepper in India in 1950-51 is estimated at 49.3 million pounds, an increase of 22 percent above the 1949-50 output of about 40.3 million pounds, according to the American Consulate, Madras. The increase is attributed to favorable weather conditions which prevailed during the latter half of 1950 in the pepper-growing areas of the Malabar Coast. Harvesting of the 1950-51 crop began in November 1950 and was completed by the end of February 1951.

The quantity of the 1950-51 season's pepper output available for export from April 1951 until the beginning of the next pepper season in November 1951 was estimated at about 22.4 million pounds. This was computed by adding carry-over stocks of 2.2 million pounds from the 1949-50 crop to the estimated production of 49.3 million pounds in 1950-51 and subtracting domestic consumption of 13.4 million pounds and exports of 15.7 million pounds from November 1950 to March 1951. Arrivals of Malabar pepper from the 1950-51 crop have been slower than usual, partly because the crop was late and partly because some producers are holding back their stocks in anticipation of higher prices.

The area under pepper in the districts of Malabar, South Kanara, and the Nilgiris in December 1950 was estimated at 104,700 acres, compared with 99,800 acres in December 1949. The increase of about 5 percent is attributed to prevailing high prices for pepper. The increase will not be reflected in higher pepper production for several years, however, because pepper vines do not begin to yield until the fourth year after planting. No official acreage figures are available for the Travancore-Cochin or Bombay areas, although normal acreages are reported to be about 101,000 acres and 4,700 acres respectively.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 195	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound	
					Spot quotation	Export and intermediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good........	5-24	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	118.00	68.40	11.83
Ashmouni, FGF..........	"	"	"	100.00	57.97	11.83
Karnak, Good..........	"	"	"	167.66	97.19	11.83
Karnak, FGF............	"	"	"	148.16	85.89	11.83
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine...........	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 770.00	20.50	21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine....	"	"	"	1/ 840.00	22.36	21.30
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine...	5-23	82.28 lbs.	"	126.00	46.20	23.09
289F Sind, SG, Fine...	"	"	"	131.00	48.03	23.09
289F Punjab, SG, Fine.	"	"	"	147.00	53.90	23.09
Buenos Aires		Metric ton				
Type B................	5-24	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	2/8000.00	72.58	6.77
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2...	5-22	101.4 lbs.	Sol	700.00	46.17	23.70
Tanguis, Type 5........	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
Pima, Type 1...........	"	"	"	850.00	56.06	39.12
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4...........		33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro			
Sertao, Type 5.........		"	"			
Sertao, Type 4.........		"	"			
Sao Paulo						
Sao Paulo, Type 5......	5-23	"	"	392.00	64.49	3.0% ad valorem
Torreon		Sp. quintal				
Middling, 15/16".......	5-24	101.4 lbs.	Peso	(not available)		
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av.Mid. 15/16"	5-24	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	44.86	----

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Ceiling price.

2/ Nominal.

1950-51 COTTON PRODUCTION IN TURKEY SHOWS INCREASE

The 1950-51 production of cotton in Turkey has been reported at 562,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), about 17 percent above the 480,000-bale crop of 1949-50, reports Laurell L. Scranton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ankara. This increased production was due largely to an increase of 38 percent in the acreage planted to cotton from 804,000 acres in 1949-50 to 1,108,000 acres in 1950-51. Yields declined somewhat from 287 pounds of lint cotton per acre in 1949-50 to 243 pounds per acre during the current season.

Prices of Turkish cotton continued their advance through the latter half of 1950 and well into 1951. At the Izmir market Acala I cotton rose from the equivalent of 40 U.S. cents a pound on August 25, 1950, to 71 cents at the end of December. This rise continued into 1951, reaching a peak of $1.22 a pound on February 17. The world shortage of raw cotton and strong demand on export markets were the main factors responsible for this increase. The price rise was further stimulated by the lack of export controls or export taxes on cotton in Turkey which forced local mills to compete with foreign buyers on an equal basis for the available supply of Turkish cotton. Another factor was the greater-than-normal purchases by the countries of Eastern and Central Europe throughout 1950-51, with little regard for prices, due partly to exclusion from sources in the United States after export controls were instituted in September 1950. Following the February peak, prices decreased rather rapidly through March and were reported at 81 cents a pound for Acala I at Izmir early in April.

Exports during August through December 1950 amounted to 171,000 bales, as compared with 209,000 bales during the entire 1949-50 season and only 129,000 bales during 1948-49. During the current season Western Germany has been the largest export market for Turkish cotton accounting for 86,000 bales. About 29,000 bales were exported to Italy, 17,000 bales to the United Kingdom, and substantial amounts to Czechoslovakia, Ireland and France.

Consumption in the current season is expected to be about equal to the 185,000 bales consumed in 1949-50. While the capacity of the mills has increased somewhat since the previous season, the thriving export market and high domestic price will probably prevent an increase in consumption.

The high prices received by farmers for the 1950-51 crop and the prospect of continued favorable prices during the coming season are expected to result in an increase in the 1951-52 cotton acreage by 15 to 20 percent above the 1.1 million acres planted in 1950-51. Some acreage normally planted to tobacco and cereals may be planted to cotton this year. Government goals for 1951-52 were placed at

1,236,000 acres, 12 percent above 1950-51, and production of almost 690,000 bales, about 23 percent higher than the 562,000 bales produced in the current season.

With the assistance of the Government, the Turkish cotton industry is taking measures to improve the production and processing of this crop. Improved seed, which is constantly being introduced, combined with better land preparation and cultivation through the use of more machinery, and intensified control of insects should lead to increased yields. Better ginning practices and more adequate classification of cotton should improve the quality of Turkish cotton which has tended to be rather poor.

The principal limitations on increased production in 1951-52 are a possible shortage of good seed and an inadequate supply of machinery and equipment for planting and cultivating a larger acreage.

COTTON PRICE CEILINGS IN INDIA ENFORCED BY MARKETING CONTROLS

The system of marketing controls put into effect by the Government of India late in 1950, in an attempt to enforce official ceiling prices of cotton is reported to be accomplishing the desired results in all the important cotton growing areas, according to V. Krishnamurthy, American Consulate General, Bombay. All interior market centers, with but few exceptions, are now served by agents appointed by the Government and known to the Trade as "nominees". Each nominee has the sole authority to sell ginned cotton to mills in a specified area. Under the price control and distribution program, the cotton-growing tracts have been divided into different zones and movement of cotton across zone frontiers is forbidden except under special permit. The cotton grown in each zone is allocated to textile mills on an historical basis. The mills are required to buy their allocations only through the nominees.

The nominees must sell cotton at prices no higher than ceilings established by the Government, although they may add their commission of about 1 percent and any local taxes. Thus the prices paid by mills have been lowered to a level only slightly above the ceiling. In areas where the nominee system does not operate, few of the transactions are reported to have been made above ceiling prices. No specific data of actual prices are available. The Government ceiling on the Jarila variety is the equivalent of 19 to 23 U.S. cents per pound, depending upon grade and staple, while Broach Vijay variety fine grade, has a ceiling price of 22.36 cents.

Despite the high degree of success in these price control efforts, the program is not free from defects. Although the Government attempted to distribute the agencies among as large a number of firms as possible, all members of the Trade are not satisfied with the present conditions.

Some of the designated firms occasionally become short of finances, thereby hampering the movement of the crop. Perhaps a more important defect over a period of time is the fact that grade and staple differences are ignored. Almost all cotton is sold at the maximum prices prescribed for the highest qualities of any particular variety. For example, most of the Jarila cotton is sold at the highest ceiling price of 23 cents a pound, plus the nominees' commission and sales tax. This disregard for quality results in admixture of inferior with superior cotton and consequently, there is the possibility of the decline in the purity of the better varieties. In an effort to provide growers with adequate incentive to maintain purity, the Government has sanctioned the payment of certain premiums for cotton certified as pure by the Agriculture Department. Nevertheless, it is feared that serious deterioration of improved strains is likely to occur, thereby nullifying the improvement work already accomplished.

Exports of cotton during the 1950-51 season have been limited by official export quotas to 147,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), which compared with exports of 214,000 bales during the previous season. More than half, or about 75,000 bales, of the export quota for the current season was allocated to the United States. While all of this allocation for the United States has been licensed for export, only 20,000 bales had been shipped by the end of March 1951. Only a negligible amount of the 43,000 bales allocated to Japan has been shipped, while substantial quantities have been exported to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Australia.

Official estimates of the 1950-51 cotton production in India have not been released, but estimates by the Indian Central Cotton Committee range between 2,625,000 and 2,700,000 bales, or 12 to 15 percent above the 2,350,000 bales produced in the previous season. The area in cotton increased about 8 percent, from 12 million acres in 1949-50 to 13 million acres during the current season, while the estimated yields of almost 100 pounds of lint cotton per acre during 1950-51 are slightly above the 96 pounds per acre reported in 1949-50. Press reports indicate that the Government of India has set a domestic production goal approaching 3,265,000 bales (4,000,000 Indian bales) for the forthcoming 1951-52 season.